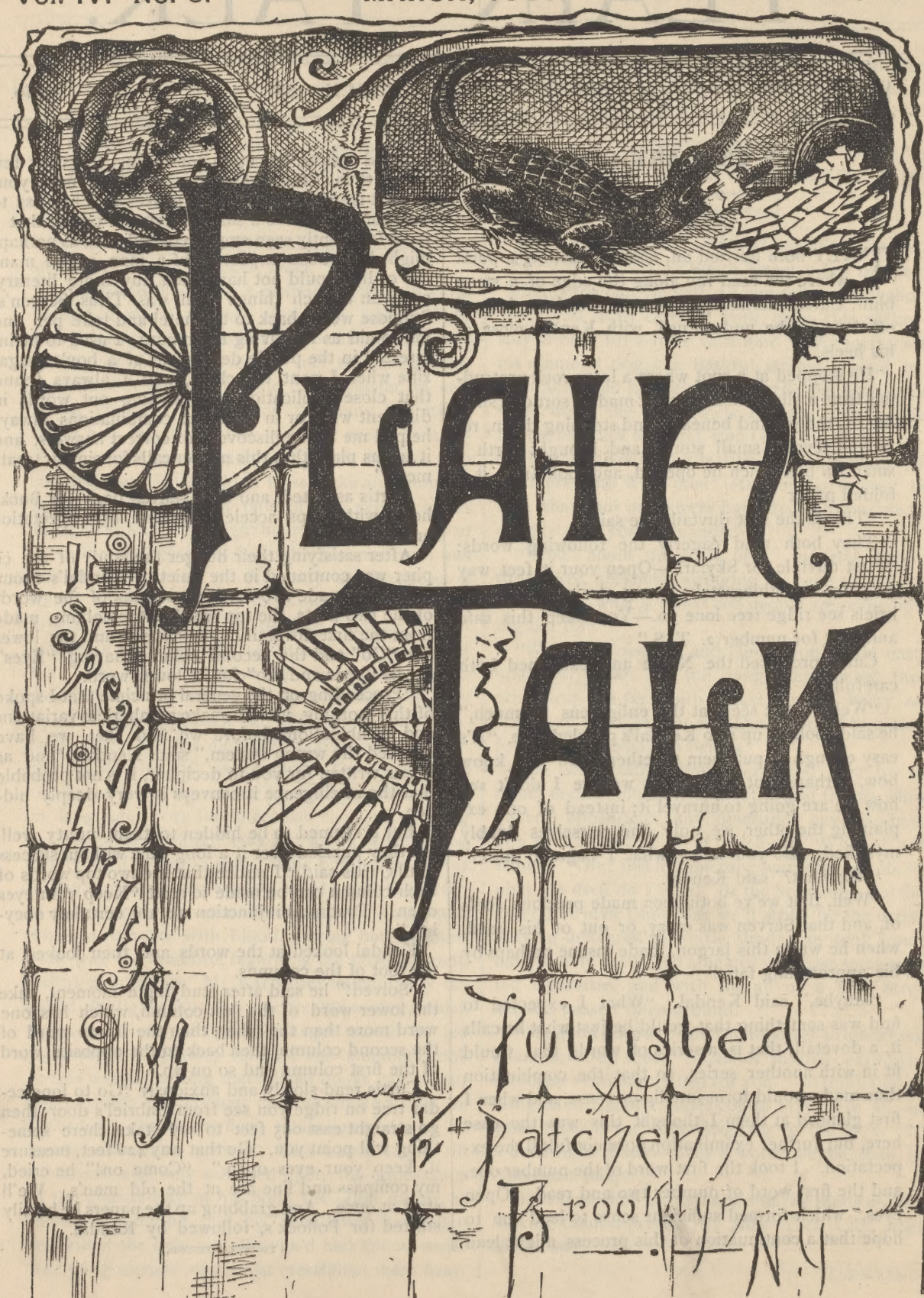


Vol. IV.—No. 6.

MARCH, 1887.

Whole Number, 24.



SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS.

# PLAIN TALK.

VOL. IV.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., MARCH, 1887.

No. 6

## THE SKYLARK CLAIM.

BY OSCAR H. LEAR.

CHAPTER VI.

THEY both hurried on, and on reaching a point where the road ran along the edge of a steep bluff, Curtis hesitated a moment, and then plunged off through the underbrush, with Kendal close at his heels.

He stopped at a spot where a large rock protruding from a slight embankment made a sort of a shelter for the ground beneath, and stooping down, removed several small stones and brought forth a small tin box which he opened, and took from it a folded paper.

"This is the first duvtail," he said.

They both read eagerly the following words: "First duvtale for Skylark—Open your it feet way go point something stake to oo5 straight then Gabriels see ridge tree lone go.—You keep this safe and wait for number 2. T. S."

Curtis produced the No. 2 and examined both carefully.

"Well I don't see that this enlightens us much," he said, looking up into Kendal's puzzled face. "It's easy enough to put them together when you know how, perhaps, but situated as we are I don't see how we are going to unravel it; instead of one explaining the other, we only find ourselves doubly mystified. Do you know what I begin to think?"

"No; what?" said Kendal.

"Well, that we've both been made precious fools of, and that Serven was crazy, or out of his head, when he wrote this jargon, made insane perhaps by his approaching fate."

"Maybe," said Kendal. "What I expected to find was something that would be just what he calls it, a dovetail; that is, a series of words that would fit in with another series, so that the combination thus made would form intelligent sense, and when I first glanced at them I thought this was the case here, but further examination does not fulfill the expectation. I took the first word of the number one, and the first word of number two and read, "Open eyes," which formed sufficient sense to lead me to hope that a continuation of this process might lead

to good results, but upon continuing, the next few words thus added, make it read "Open eyes your keep it measure feet" which proves that process to be wrong. This is a simple style of cipher that I have frequently seen employed, and such as perhaps might have been expected of a man whose manner of life would not have been any more literary, or given to such things than was Titus Serven's. Suppose we go back to the hotel and take pen and ink to aid us in solving the rebus. I used to be interested in the puzzle department of a boy's magazine when I went to school, and I always found that close application, and writing out words in different ways or in different combinations always helped me in the discovery of correct answers, and it seems plain that this matter calls for similar treatment."

Curtis assented, and they started back for Buckhorn with steps accelerated both by expectation and hunger.

After satisfying their hunger the study of the cipher was continued in the quiet of Kendal's room.

Kendal made two vertical columns of the words of the two parts, the top word of the column made from the first dovetail being "Open" and the lower one "Go" and the second column having "Eyes" for its upper and "to" for its lower word.

"Proceeding on the general principle that I spoke of this morning, we can make numberless variations and combinations before we find that we have adopted the wrong system," said Kendal, "and as it was written for you to decipher, it is not probable that the intelligence it conveys is very deeply hidden."

But it seemed to be hidden to them pretty well, for they puzzled over it a long time without success until Curtis said, "I notice that the two top words of each column can be made to read "Keep your eyes open. That is an injunction we are certainly obeying."

Kendal looked at the words and then looked at the foot of the columns.

"Solved!" he said after studying a moment, take the lower word of the first column, which has one word more than the other, than the lower word of the second column, then back to the opposite word of the first column and so on up."

Curtis read slowly and anxiously "Go to lone cedar tree on ridge you see from Gabriel's door; then go straight east oo5 feet to my stake there something will point you. Go that way 426 feet, measure it, keep your eyes open." "Come on!" he cried, my compass and line are at the old man's. We'll start at once. And grabbing up the papers he hastily started for Pollock's, followed by Kendal.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS.

## A NIGHT WITH THE CHICKENBACKS.

BY ONE WHO GOT OUT ALIVE.

THE Chickenbacks was the name of an association started in Williamsburg, N. Y., about two years ago. A suit of rooms over a Sheeny segar store was handsomely fitted up with stools, tables, oil cloth chromos and an extensive library of border stories, biographies of noted burglars, and about fifty copies of *Silver Days*.

Fortunately I was not a member of the club, but I stood in with a number of friends who enjoyed that privilege, and who had repeatedly extended to me cordial invitations to visit the association. Somehow or another I could never muster up sufficient courage to act upon the many invitations that I had received, until one fine evening, it occurred to me that I wasn't acting just square with the boys, so resolved to at least make an attempt to get there. I donned a pair of seal skin whiskers and a cane, and with a light heart waltzed gaily up to the brilliantly lighted rooms of the Association. I was introduced to a few of the early members, as a starter shaking hands with Messrs. Shaughnessy, Myers, Powell, Smith and the dog. These gentlemen were wrestling with something in the centre of the room which I afterward discovered to be a stove of very diminutive dimensions, called the Fly Speck. The Fly Speck had evidently become unmanageable and the members repairing it were becoming likewise. Mr. Smith wanted the stove thrown out in the yard, expressing his intention of so doing in language more forcible than elegant. During the squabble, Shaughnessy fell sound asleep on an empty shelf of the Library, while puffing on a Sea Robin, but was compelled to vacate upon the arrival of the worthy two-ton President, Mr. Carpenter, who was covered with blood, having had an interview with the landlord, regarding the excessive rent, before coming up. Mr. Carpenter immediately ordered the lights out, for the weekly seance, which began much sooner than a stranger would be led to suspect. The deep interest the members took in this was something marvelous; books cut the air like a dutch groceryman cutting smoked beef on Saturday night; chairs flew, tables jumped and all hands balanced to corners. The battle raged till 10 o'clock, and only subsided upon the appearance of the ghastly face of his Nibs, the segar maker, at the door, shouting that his chandelier had fallen and killed the only customer he'd had for a week. The gang seemed somewhat crestfallen upon hear-

ing this news, but not enough so to prevent them hanging out an announcement that a Soiree would take place on the roof, the following Sunday.

## POVERTY AND CIGARETTES.

Not an advertisement.

"MY good friend," said a PLAIN TALK reporter to a striker on South Street, a few days ago, "what is the trouble with all you fellows 'longshore? Don't you really care for work, or is this racket a sort of bluff for a little vacation? Coyly toying with his diamond ring, the bashful striker replied in a rich cultivated mezzo-soprano: "Be the holy swipes we'll wurk like blue divils, but the monopolistic bloats, bad luck ter them, won't give over."

"I'm not quite on to the drift of your ejaculations, but I presume it is your intention to convey the idea that your employers have decidedly refused to comply with your demands."

"That's about the soize of it," modestly replied the striker, nervously swinging his cane to and fro.

"Well-er-what is it that you people are really holdin out for?"

"Wall-a-yer see, me and Dinnis don't want nartin much particular, but the gang down below there are holdin out fer South Street, Fulton Ferry and the Navy Yard, but me and Dinnis would be sathus-foid wid the Brooklyn Bridge."

The conversation was interrupted here by the rather unceremonious arrival of the said Dinnis, whose general appearance and demeanor gave evidence of a prolonged tipping of the elbow. "Whoop!" said Dinnis, "Oive just lost me ruby scarf pin, be gob, but phat the devil do I care! Be the holy slops, ave they don't give in be Chewsday we'll strike fer the earth." Having delivered this little tirade, he took from a handsomely decorated alligator skin case some scented cigarettes, and with the air of a Wall Street broker, passed them around.

"My good friends" said the reporter in an earnest, commiserating tone, "I cannot forbear expressing the deep sympathy I feel for you. To think that the Knights of Labor compel you to stay here all day when there is such fine sleighing in the park. It's a downright shame—even a worse shame than the American navy."

Both men shed bitter tears, and the reporter, after making them a present of New York City, made his escape,

DINKPAN.

## THE WINNER.

THE winner of the prize subscription for March, was Mr. Francis Jackson, Delevan, Wis. Over two hundred answers to the apple problem were received, taking in a variety of numbers, many giving the number as 64 apples. The correct answer was 15 apples, and the names of the other parties giving the correct answer are as follows:—

H. D. Gold, 522 Pine St., Phil., Pa.  
 W. S. Aldrich, 50 Union Park, Boston, Mass.  
 W. F. Lunt, Newburyport, Mass.  
 H. N. Hempstead, 1538 Master St., Phila., Pa.  
 E. S. Phelps, Worcester, Mass.  
 R. S. Brubaker, Freeport, Ills.  
 Morris Stern, 233 Andrews St., Rochester, N. Y.  
 Saml. W. Dougherty, Box 59, Beaver Penn.

There being more than one, the winner was decided by lot and Mr. Jackson was the lucky man. Mr. E. T. Onley, of Modest Town, Va., superintended the drawing. Read our prize for April, below.

## PRIZE FOR APRIL.

ON Jan. 1st, 1880, a banker buys a U. S. 4% bond for \$100.00 at a premium of 20%, paying \$120.00. On Jan. 1st, 1900, the Government pays him. What has been the rate of interest on his investment?

We will give, free, one year's subscription to PLAIN TALK to the person sending us the best solution of the problem. The operation to reach the result must also be given. If two or more answers equally good are received, the winner will be decided by a hat drawing. Open until April 5th.

## COOK vs CANVASBACK.

"GOOD morning, Ellen, I learn you've left your last situation."

"Indade I did."

"What was the trouble?"

"Me lady was crazy, and I couldn't put up wid her nonsince, so I left."

"Crazy?"

"Crazy, as a bed-bug! Oh! what do yis suppose she wanted me to do? Nothin more nor less to cook a canvas-backed dook; won o' thim Christmas toys. I suppose the next thing she'd want me to do wud be to cook a wooly dog or a rag baby, so I thought it was about time I left."

"You did just right. Mistresses are getting so they expect too much from us cooks."

## PLAIN TALK FAMILY RECIPES.

CHewing GUM.—Pinch the oil out of six dead horses hoofs; live ones wont do; slice the oil well, and let it simmer in a barrel of unslaked water for ten years. If you find it impossible to get pure city water, buy some from the milk-man. Add sufficient boarding house pie to give the required toughness; printers pi is sometimes used but the flavor is not so delicate.

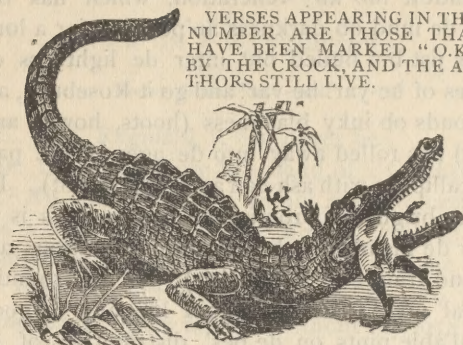
For "BLACK JACK" or "BLACK HAWK" Gum, mix in a thimbleful of Dixon's shoe polish and a car load of African ink beans, and if too hard or brittle add some tripe and a dose of rochelle salts.

For "REDHEADED" Chewing Gum mix in a couple of powdered bricks and a pound can of turkey red; if hard or brittle, add shoe strings.

MOCK CHICKEN, GOOSE OR TURKEY.—Take a nice, ripe, mellow No. 9 boot from hubby's private closet (if you don't the health department will), cut off the straps and let them soak in muriatic acid until they begin to hop, then add the heel. When these pieces have danced long enough to have become pliable, put them into a mixture of feathers and glue and boil for 12 hours and 81 seconds. Be careful as to time, too long, and it becomes too short and crispy, too much and it becomes more tender than necessary, causing a suspicion of its being genuine fowl. Stuffing.—To 3 lbs. of scrap iron and a bag of bottles, add a set of nine pins and a bale of hay; add a half tea-cupful of pure dish water, containing very little soap; drop in one linen duster and a pair of rubbers; disguise with plenty of sage and proceed to roast. A fowl cooked and stuffed as above will make a lasting impression upon the boarders.

HOW TO COOK ARIZONA BEANS.—These beans can be cooked if handled properly. Soak one quart of Arizona beans in a pan of pickled pig's feet for 8 days. Boil them (the beans) for 6 days in hot ice water. Keep them on fire night and day, for the Arizona bean, unless persistently cooked, will return to its native rawness at the first opportunity; place the beans in a quick hot oven to bake, putting in a small chunk of pork every few days until the beans have attained a sufficient degree of tenderness. They are then ready for the closing services, to wit, grease thoroughly a stout iron spider and place over a hot fire; pour in the beans, and with a heavy hammer break the kernels with a garden rake; salt well and serve while warm. This is also a good receipt for making shoe buttons,

## VIVID VERSES.



VERSES APPEARING IN THIS NUMBER ARE THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN MARKED "O.K." BY THE CROCK, AND THE AUTHORS STILL LIVE.

## YOU'RE A DUNCE.

THE church was one of fashion,  
Among whose wide extent,  
Nothing short of blue-blood ran—  
The blood of rich descent.

Of this Fred Sweet knew nothing,  
(A usual thing with him);  
So, christian-like, he entered there,  
To listen to the hymn.

The choir, of course, were singing (?)  
In words you'd not call plain;  
Yet, when they reached the chorus,  
That filled his heart with pain.

Yes, filled his soul with horror;  
For, staring in his eyes,  
They screeched aloud their anguish  
In harsh, discordant cries:

"You're a dunce for a light attic.  
Sure, Adie hunts for a light I take,  
Your A. D. Yants for a lie tight ache,  
Yes, ferthee-e-e my yawl fuss ache,  
My Yaw-aw-awl fers-a-a-ake."

No, he did not wait much longer,  
His christian dream was o'er;  
Grabbing up his crumpled hat  
He bounded out the door.

Was that a church of fashion,  
And that a hymn of bliss?  
Yes, to tell the truth, they were,  
The hymn was simply this:

"Your radiance for a light I take,  
Your radiance for a light I take,  
Your radiance for a light I take,  
Yes, for thee my all forsake,  
My all forsake."

But the style put in the music  
Had sadly mixed the sense;  
No wonder Fred was frightened  
By their fury so intense.

GUNWAD.

## IT'S SURE TO COME.

OUR ANNUAL DONATION.

SPRING will soon be here!  
It comes once every year.  
Poets will begin to sing  
About their love for everything—  
That's cheap.

Spring is sure to come,  
And bring the tramp and bum;  
Office boys will ring the bell  
At anything that's comical,  
Or "ches."

Spring is not far off,  
There's hope for every cough;  
The Aldermen will sweat and shout,  
And try the prison to get out—  
No doubt.

Spring will not be late;  
Get ready lines and bait,  
And lie about the fish you caught—  
The fish you at the market bought  
With boodle.

Spring is on it's way;  
It may come any day;  
Presidents of banks will crawl  
Toward the gates of Montreal—  
That's all.

DINK.

## IN LUCK.

A MAN came on from Hoosic Falls,  
The city to examine;  
He sampled all the high-toned wines  
With fricassee of salmon;  
He did the show,  
Skipped to and fro,  
Had everything he desired;  
He wearied soon,  
Went to his room,  
Blew out the gas and retired.

Plot No. 301,  
Up the golden stairs.  
Turn to your right.

DINKPAN.

## A GOOD EXPLANATION.

"WHY, Johnny dear, where have you been?  
You're covered o'er with dirt;  
Were you run over by a truck?  
And are you badly hurt?"

"Naw, Chestnut! Don't you get so skeert;  
I bin wid Jimmy Craig,  
And all de dirt you see, I got  
From playin' Pull-a-peg."

## DOINGS IN DARKTOWN.

MEMBERS OF THE WAYUP COLORED LITERARY UNION.  
 POTASSIUM SMITH, President.  
 LEVIN CRIPPEN, 1st Vice-Pres't  
 TARTARIC RAGG, 2d " " SAWBUCK BROWN, Secretary.  
 CONTRACTOR SHARP, Treasurer.  
 OBJECTOR CRUTCH, Seg't-at-Arms.



IT will be remembered that, at the last meeting of this club, in February, the proceedings terminated somewhat dramatically. Just as all the members of the club were in the act of administering a terrible punishment upon the President, for a fancied grievance, a telegram was received announcing the fact that the President's grandfather had died and left him

fifty thousand dollars to distribute among the members of the club. The situation was awkward in the extreme, and every man wondered if his participation in the fight would jeopardize his interest in the bequest. A tomb-like silence reigned, and each uplifted hand had dropped as if it had been struck with paralysis when the telegram was received.

The brevity of space and of life preclude a recital of all the apologies made, of the number of calls made on the President to inquire as to his health, the explanations given, and promises of loyalty to him and to the Wayup Colored Union, of which he was the founder. Suffice it to say that they were forgiven and schemes were discussed with the view of making the Union a source of greater usefulness, pleasure and profit than ever. A rousing meeting was held on Saturday evening, March 5th, in Objector Crutch's cellar. It was held there until arrangements could be made for more palatial quarters. The money was to be divided at this meeting, and the President had it with him tied up in a bag. Fifty thousand dollars is a good deal of money to divide, and it was thought best to have somebody not connected with the club, to be present, to see that the count was fair. The party selected for this purpose was Cholly Rosebud, a spruce dapper young darkey, in whom all had the greatest confidence. He was to become a member at this meeting and was to outline the plans for the future of the club, the social events, excursions, and so forth. He was invited by the President to make a few remarks, and arose amid a roar of applause to address them

"Blubbered frens," said he, "Darktown, de city of our foundest lub an' veneration, which has bin stuck in de mud ob darkness an' poverty for a long time, has jist bin pulled out inter de lightness ob day (cries of he-yar! he-yar! and go it Rosebud), an' all de clouds ob inky blackness (hoots, howls, and cat-calls) has rolled away into de ages ob de past (steam callipeos with ash-can accompaniment). De future am bright wif promise, an' happy days is in store for de members ob dis club (tumultuous applause and frantic demonstation). Ise bin around a good deal myse'f, and I spec I kin offer a good many val'able pints on de bes' distribution of de money wat you has all come onto. I just suggests de formashun ob a Wayup Base Ball Club. (seismic disturbances and wild hurrahs.) We want a few mo' members wich you can leab me ter get. I recommen's a small tax on each member to pay fur de costumes and fixin's. I will pint myse'f a committee ob one to tend to de matter, an' now to gib de rest ob de members a chance to 'spress demsels on de subjec', I sots down" (boisterous confusion.)

"Well," said the President, when quiet was at last restored, "I think our new brudder hab got de right sort o' stuff inter him, an' I, for one, am berry glad to hab him one ob us." "So am I," was echoed from every throat. "He hab proposed de right plan—we must hab a ball nine, an' acting on de advice ob brudder Rosebud, let each member commencin' from de outside aisle, on de front row, start to gib his views on de subjec'." The first member started, and was proceeding enthusiastically to express his great pleasure at the idea of a ball club, and the others were listening with rapt attention, when, suddenly, the President uttered a piercing and blood-curdling shriek and fell forward on the lime barrel! The terrors of his moment of agony, whatever the cause, must have been of superhuman endurance, for he had turned from black to white, so great was the paleness of his turning pale. Everybody seemed rooted to the floor and their lips sealed, but by degrees their senses returned, and then the awful truth was but too plain. They had been robbed, and Rosebud was the thief!

ONE of Brooklyn's citizens is so badly left as to give rise to the conviction that it must be a perpetual cold day for him. His name is Left, he is the only child left of a family of eleven, is left handed, has only one leg, the left one, and can see out of the left eye only.

BOGUS NOBILITY;

OR,

STUCK ON A WATERBURY.

Scene—Birdie's back yard.

SHE. Alas, Reginald, it can never be!

He. Can you refuse the hand of a Chichester, Birdie? No, no, you surely do not mean to cast me off like a wet poodle; think, Birdie, think of the horrible consequences should you discard me forever. Whatever put this diabolical idea into your little cocoanut? I can not live without thy love and tender smiles. It would drive me mad—it would drive me mad (tearing his hair.)

She.—Even if it were to drive you to drink, Reginald, it is inevitably so; I can never be your wife. (Nervous and biting finger nails.)

He.—As a Chichester, then, I have the right to demand an explanation—why have you encouraged and lured me on to this most unhappy state of affairs? Have I not always acted supremely noble with thee, Birdie? Everything heart could wish for have I given thee—Do you remember Christmas, four years ago, Birdie? Dear old Christmas! How happy we were that Christmas, sitting beside each other in the parlor, watching from the window the tired and weary sun sinking, slowly sinking in the east.

She.—Yes, Reginald, it was the only day that year that it sank in the east. I remember it well.

He.—It was then, Birdie that I placed within thy soft white hand the little solid gold watch which now lies snugly nestled in thy bosom.

She.—Was it indeed solid, Reginald?

He.—Most certainly, Birdie. Why do you ask?

She.—It only occurred to me this morning that it might be plated when mamma, in sweeping up, found the ticket for your overcoat on the parlor floor.

DINKPAN.

"Gosh! That was Bad."

"DID I leave a silk umbrella here, yesterday, sir?" inquired a gentleman of a store-keeper.

"No, you didn't, You left a very cheap and measly cotton umbrella. If you succeed in finding the silk one, I wish you would bring it back."

EVERYBODY who has ever subscribed for PLAIN TALK received more for his money than he expected, because improvements have been added continually from the word go.

A Query Answered.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to ask us which of the metropolitan newspapers we consider the best.

Why under the *Sun* he should put the query to us we don't know, unless he considers us the best Judge of the good things of this *Life*. New York boasts of having the best newspapers in the *World*, any one of which can many *Times* discount the brightest *Star* in the *Journalistic* firmament of any other nation, and a man to ask such a question, must be as thick as a *Post*, when he himself has Witness-ed the great advancement made in the past few years. Of course our correspondent will Pucker up his lips and whistle when we say:—"*Herald* it to all people, *Commercial*, or otherwise, that we think *Ours* is the best—and that is *Plain Talk*, and no mistake."

They Were Just Out.

CUSTOMER—"Say, Mr. Isenstein, don't you think you are doing wrong by displaying that sign on those clothes in front of the store, "Just out," when, to my knowledge they are at least fifteen years old?"

Isenstein.—"Dot don'd make me some tifference; I don'd dell me some lies, is it?"

Customer.—"Why, certainly you do. I bought a suit like that myself about ten years ago."

Isenstein.—Yaw, dot ish drew, Mr. Schumann, but blease be quiet, somebody comes me dot door in. We hadt dem on ter schelef such a long dimes, ain'd it? Isaac he prings 'em down gesterday, and put dem outside youst now, see? Dot's a drick of ter bishness."

Appearances Deceived Him.

"THAT'S a handsome pair of buffalo heads you have there; what's the price?" inquired a customer at a Fulton street furriers', a few days since.

"Buffalo heads? Oh, ho! yes, I see; quite a natural mistake; but they are not the craniums of defunct bisons, just the same."

"No, what are they, then?"

"Simply a pair of ear muffs I made to order for a young lady from St. Louis, now visiting in this city."

PLAIN TALK stands to-day the greatest success in modern journalism. Fifty Cents a year in advance.

## —PLAIN TALK.—

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH AT 61½ PATCHEN AVENUE,  
BROOKLYN, N. Y., BY

PLAIN TALK PUBLISHING COMPANY.

(INCORPORATED.)

WM. J. MYERS, EDITOR.

E. VAN SCHAACK, MANAGER.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

IN ADVANCE.

PER ANNUM, 50 CENTS. | SIX MONTHS, 30 CENTS.  
To Foreign Countries, 75 Cents per annum.

### ADVERTISING RATES.

	1 MO.	2 MOS.	3 MOS.	6 MOS.	1 YR.
One Inch.....	\$0.75	\$ 1.40	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.85	\$ 7.00
Two Inches.....	1.40	2.70	3.85	7.00	13.20
Three Inches.....	2.00	3.85	5.60	10.60	20.00
Five Inches.....	3.30	6.30	9.15	17.35	33.00
One Column.....	6.00	11.40	16.25	30.85	58.60
One Page.....	16.25	30.85	44.75	85.00	161.50

Advertisements to occupy less than one inch space will be charged 8 cents per line, and MUST be paid for in advance.

Cash or Good Reference MUST accompany all orders for advertising.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., MARCH, 1887.

AS was expected, Bismarck scored a mark for Biz.

SPRING poems will soon be on the increase, and the junk dealers' business will receive a boom.

AFTER a diet, all winter, of coal gas, an early spring is a great blessing to sickly house plants.

BEFORE we go to press again, the great day of "All Fools" will be here. Near sighted old men have our sympathy.

THE papers used to kindle the fire in the morning, now-a-days, consist largely of circulars received from seedsmen.

THERE is some poetry in the action of the tramp, after all. He leaves with the birds in winter, and returns with them in the spring.

THE originality of a Brooklyn dentist who advertises Dental Plumbing, can hardly be said to convey the impression that his charges are low.

ONE square foot of ice on the pavement was the cause of more injury to General Butler's body, than he received in any of the battles of the war that he was engaged in.

THE Browning Clubs in Boston are not to be compared with PLAIN TALK CLUBS. Any person sending a Club of five subscribers, and the money, will get a free subscription for himself.

THE rural weeklies are beginning to use the long standing paragraph, "Winter lingers in the lap of spring." It might be said of the country editor that *he* lingers in the lap of the spring of many years ago.

ATTENTION is called to our Premium Offer on the opposite page. It is a *bona fide* offer, and furnishes a splendid opportunity to any and all persons possessing some literary talent to make money and secure recognition in the literary world.

SOME ignorant person, intending to perpetrate a practical pun at the expense of our office crocodile, sent him a present of a pair of scales. The perpetrator, will know, when he reads this, if he never did before, that a crocodile is not a fish.

A BILL before Congress empowers the Secretary of the Navy to award a premium of \$50,000,000 to the man who will build a ship that will run fifty knots an hour. If ships were only yarn, there might be some show for the boy who holds the skein for his grandmother, to secure the bonus.

AT a mass meeting of Straiton & Storm's Cigar-makers, Mr J. B. Gibbs, President of the Manhattan Temperance Association, was denounced as a "raving fanatic" for his uncalled for remarks about the life they, the cigarmakers live. Mr. Gibbs' fanaticisms have got him in trouble more than once, and it is a wonder that his family do not insist upon his wearing a gag.

A GENTLEMAN from Alabama, by the name of Green, was lately swindled out of five hundred dollars, by bunco men in New York. He had heard of the game, and was on the lookout to avoid being entrapped, but was not aware he was in the hands of one of the swindlers, because nobody had accosted him beforehand to learn his name, and the fact that this man knew it, was a great surprise to him. To us it is not so surprising, for it probably did not require very wonderful intuitive powers to conceive that he *was* Green.

## OUR PREMIUM OFFER!

THERE are thousands of persons in this country who have considerable latent literary talent, who would probably become noted writers, if that talent was properly nourished and developed, and yet they go through life allowing it to die, because they do not know how to make it remunerative, and never seem to have an opportunity to bring it before the public. To all such, and, in fact, to everybody PLAIN TALK offers a golden opportunity, not only to make money but to introduce them to the literary world. We will give

**\$25.00 IN GOLD!**

to the person sending us the best written humorous story or sketch, of about 800 words length, on any subject whatever. All contributions to be sent to us within two months, or say, not later than June 1st. Mr. Wm. A. O. Paul, the Secretary of the Plain Talk Publishing Co. will then pass upon their merit, and in our June paper will be published a list of those whose articles have been deemed worthy of admission for competition.

The decision as to the best article will be made by vote of PLAIN TALK's subscribers. Each actual subscriber, being entitled to one vote. Votes can be forwarded to us at any time after the first article has been published in June, with the privilege of changing the vote at any time during the continuance of their publication, which will extend through seven numbers—namely, from June to December, 1887. The premium will be awarded on or about January 1st, 1888. Votes must be in sealed envelopes, endorsed with the name and address of the voter and the word VOTE.

Those envelopes will not be opened until December 20th, of this year. Every person desiring to vote, who may not be a subscriber, must accompany his vote with either fifty cents for a year's subscription or thirty cents for a six months' subscription, or the vote will not be counted.

Nobody connected with or interested in PLAIN TALK, either as stockholder, officer, or director of the company, employee or member of its staff of regular contributors, or in any capacity whatever, will be allowed to compete for the above offer or vote for any contribution.

We reserve the right to publish any or all articles sent to us. Some may be deemed worthy of

publication, though not up to the standard requisite for competition for the premium, and the writers will reap some benefit from the article, if published, by the prestige accruing to their names through PLAIN TALK.

Underneath the title of articles admitted in competition will be printed the words "Premium Article." Write on one side of the paper only, and address everything to

PLAIN TALK PUB. CO.,  
61½ Patchen Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

### PLAININGS.

"THERE'S nothing in *Life* worth living for," were the last words of a suicide. It was a bold assertion, but we are not prepared to contradict it.

A FRIEND of ours, on Degraw Street, says he is not opposed to ladies wearing high hats in the theatres. They don't bother him, he says. N. B.—Our friend is blind.

THE height of wisdom.—To know just when to lay down a poker hand.

"PUBLIC office is a public trust," and so also is the corner grocery.

THE Kiralfy Brothers must look upon the clergy of this country as a gang of long-eared asses," exclaims Rev. G. T. Downing, of Cleveland, Ohio, referring to an invitation he had received from the Messrs. Kiralfy to attend a performance of the Black Crook. If the reverend gentleman persists in his refusal to see the production he will lay himself open to suspicion of being one of those long-eared quadrupeds.

A BROOKLYN plumber, McCormick, by name, was recently taken sick with colic while at work, and had to be removed to his home in an ambulance. This little act of his will go a great ways toward the overthrow of the growing suspicion that plumbers are not human. Remorse may not gnaw at his vitals, but he *can* have the colic.

NOBODY that has advertised in PLAIN TALK ever grumbled because the returns were not large.

E. VAN SCHAACK,  
WM. J. MYERS,  
WM. A. O. PAUL,  
Pres't. and Manager.  
Treas. and Editor.  
Secretary.

## SUBSCRIPTION BLANK.

188

PLAIN TALK PUB. CO., (INCORPORATED.)

61½ PATCHEN AVENUE,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

*Please send PLAIN TALK for one year to the following address, for which find enclosed Fifty Cents.*

*Name,* .....

*Post Office Address,* .....

*County,* .....

*State,* .....

**POSTAL NOTE OR POSTAGE STAMPS ACCEPTED.**

### PROFITABLE PHILATELIC POINTS.

IT was certainly a Profitable Point to Philatelists when PLAIN TALK undertook the collection of claims for approval sheets, and so many have testified to the value of the Point to them, that it is pertinent to publish a few letters from stamp dealers' as showing a little of what we have accomplished in the past two or three months, in that direction.

\* \* \*

FROM F. J. STANTON.—"Yours, containing returns from some of my accounts, came to hand, and I tender you my hearty thanks. To say that PLAIN TALK is doing a good work toward crushing approval sheet thieving does not fully express it. It is doing a grand work!"

\* \* \*

FROM WILLIAM WOLF.—"I have received the return of sheets from two parties whose accounts I gave you and settlements in money from two others. I cannot speak too highly of the prompt manner in which you have arrested this thieving of approval sheets. It is time that this sort of thing was checked, and dealers everywhere should thank you as being the means of preventing these frauds from practising their nefarious trade. For my part I thank you heartily for the trouble you have taken on this account."

\* \* \*

FROM GEO. A. HAUSCHILD.—"I received the returns from the three accounts which you sent and I was surprised that I received anything from the list I sent you, and I say "Long Live PLAIN TALK!" It is the first paper I have come across that would go to so much trouble as to collect bills for stamp dealers."

\* \* \*

FROM W. G. WHILDEN, JR.—Please accept my thanks for so kindly and promptly collecting the accounts. It is surprising to me how you did so, in so short a time, for I have written repeatedly and could obtain no acknowledgment. I do not know by what means you make the delinquents remit, but I am certain you must bring, either some weighty argument, or a little piece of law to bear upon them. It is with the greatest pleasure that I recommend your paper to stamp dealers. I have gone out of the stamp business, but if I should ever again enter the Philatelic arena, I will advertise in your paper.

FROM F. D. DONOGHUE & CO.—"In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, allow us to thank you for the trouble you took with the accounts placed in your hand. You have taken the first step in the right direction, trying to exterminate approval sheet frauds. It renders a great service to all honest dealers and collectors, and they cannot fail to appreciate it, thus adding to the popularity of your already popular paper."

\* \* \*

ABOUT GUARANTEES.—The Texas Philatelist continues to lay great stress upon its guarantee to refund subscribers' money in case the paper goes to the wall before the year of publication is out. This is right and just, but the rank and file of collectors want to subscribe for a paper whose guarantee is reflected from every page, by its success.

\* \* \*

TO AN INQUIRER.—Yes, you *can* buy, at any Post Office in the United States, thirteen two-cent stamps for a cent and a quarter.

\* \* \*

### PLACE THE ACCOUNT WITH US.

ALL stamp dealers who have claims against collectors, for approval sheets which they have been unable to collect, are invited to send a statement of the account to us with full particulars of when the sheet was sent, its value, commission allowed, if any, length of time allowed to make returns when written to, and the nature of replies or promises. We will make an effort to collect same, in an original way, which probably no dealers employ, and if we too are unsuccessful in recovering the money, we will publish the frauds if desired. All this we will do without cost to dealers, except disbursement for postage, etc., actually made.

\* \* \*

STAMP DEALERS NEGLECT.—From the nature of some of the letters received from some of the parties whose accounts have been placed in our hands, we have no doubt, that the method of keeping accounts by some dealers is faulty. Many persons claim to have returned stamps or settled, and while the majority of such claims we believe to be bogus, yet some bear the truth upon their face. Hence, we desire that no accounts be sent to us if the dealer is not positive that no returns whatever have been made to him, and we do not want disputed accounts.

# SUPPLEMENT.--PLAIN TALK.

## LOVE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

### THE ARDENT PHILATELIST AND HIS REMARKABLE DOINGS.

The Justification of the Stamp Collector—£70,000 Worth of Stamps—Rare American Stamps—Philatelic Literature.

From the New York *Sun*, March 13th.

THE man who has the mania for collecting postage stamps is known, technically, as a philatelist. The word is derived from the Greek, and is translated, "love of a tax." Mr. Bogert, President of the National Philatelic Society of New York, thinks the title is not the most happy one that could be procured; but, as it has gone into general use, both in this and other countries, it is too late to change it. There is an impression among the general public that stamp collecting is confined to boys and eccentric men and women. This impression, however, is wrong. A great many bankers and brokers in this and other cities, who have proved by their business successes that they are possessed of sound judgment, are enthusiastic stamp collectors. It is time, philatelists think, that the ridicule to which they have been subjected should be done away with, and that their pursuit should be recognized to be as legitimate as that of the coin collector, which has long been recognized as a science.

This claim would seem to be justified when it is known that the postage stamps used in the world run up into the thousands, and that a book of seventy-four pages, printed in fine type, is required to catalogue them. The United States Government issues at the present time 209 stamps of different kinds (not including revenue stamps), which range in value from one to ninety cents apiece. A complete collection of these and other foreign stamps, of recent dates, unused, is worth in the philatelic market about twice their face value.

It is claimed by the educated philatelist that a thorough knowledge of his art is a liberal education in political geography, and contemporary history, and money values; for all postage is regulated by the current money in the country in which it is issued, and the glib manner in which a stamp collector alludes to reis, pence, thalers, centimes, pi-

astres, annas, rupees, krewzers and marks, would seem to indicate that his knowledge of the various coins alluded to would enable him to correctly count his change after paying for his dinner. Stamp collecting is also a good exercise for strengthening the memory. Perhaps no pursuit demands a more thorough knowledge of detail, unless it be the hardware business. The varieties of colors, sizes, and dates are almost interminable, and the encyclopædic knowledge which a small philatelist wearing a No. 6 hat will carry around with him is marvelous.

Just now stamp collecting is booming. Never before in the world's history were there so many engaged in it. At present, in France there is a perfect mania for the collection of foreign stamps, and stationers are doing a large trade in them. There are in Paris 180 wholesale dealers in stamps, and a large number of periodicals. A single wholesale dealer in the southern part of France, imported last year 3,000,000 foreign postage stamps. Three years ago a son of the Duchess de Gallina possessed a collection of stamps for which he had paid £70,000, and his library consisted of nearly 300 volumes. M. de Rothschild's collection is valued at £10,000, and it is shown only to special friends. At the Paris Mint a large collection of postage stamps is kept. M. Philip Farran owns 1,500,000 stamps, and he employs two librarians to keep them in order. The best collection of English postage stamps belongs to Mr. Philbrick, Q. C. The Duke of Edinburgh is a notable collector of stamps.

The first postage stamp of which there is any record was issued by the British Government in 1840; Switzerland and Brazil came next in 1843, and the first postage stamp appeared in the United States in 1847. In 1842, however, the Postmaster in this city issued a few blue-colored oval stamps, bearing the inscription, "U. S. City Despatch," and a picture of Washington, for his own convenience. Also, in 1845, a local stamp was issued at the New York Post Office with a face value of five cents. This latter stamp can be bought now for \$2.50. Those of the issue of 1842 are worth \$75.

The first stamped envelopes issued by Sardinia in 1818, if used and in good condition, bring \$30 each. Among the rarest and most expensive French

stamps is the vermilion one-franc of 1849, worth \$50. Old red Brazilian stamps are worth to the collector from \$25 to \$30. Hawaii, 1852, are valued at \$82, and rare Canadian and Newfoundland stamps fetch \$50 and \$55. An Island of Mauritius stamp issued in 1847 readily yields its holder \$80. But they are scarcer than hen's teeth.

Stamps have recently been issued by the Congo Free State of the denominations of 5, 10, 25 and 50 centimes. They are printed in a bright tint, and bear the expressive features of King Leopold II. In connection with these a very neat postal card has also been issued.

Among American stamps those issued by the Postmaster, at Brattleboro, Vt., in 1846, are very rare, and readily bring \$190 in this city. If attached to the original envelope the fortunate possessor can get \$250 for one of them. There are less than a score of them in existence. A Baltimore stamp of 1846 recently turned up in this city and was sent to Europe, where it was sold for \$400. The most valuable stamps are usually sent to Europe because better prices are got there. There are not more than three of the famous Alexandria, Va., 5-cent black stamps (on a buff envelope) in existence, and these three are valued at \$250 apiece. There is a Goliad, Tex., stamp worth \$95; a Baton Rouge worth \$50; St. Louis, \$55, and several others valued at \$50 each. At a recent auction sale the collection of the Rev. Mr. Hoenecke, of Milwaukee, brought upward of \$1,500.

Eleven stamps, in denominations of from two to twenty cents, were issued by the Confederate States of America during the years 1861-'63, inclusive. Of these the most valuable is the ten-cent blue, 1863; an unused one is worth \$2; used, \$1. An unauthenticated story is told to the effect that previous to this issue by the Confederates, a local Postmaster made a stamp for his own use from a stamp used to impress the trade mark on the soles of shoes.

A writer in a Western philatelic journal says that revenue stamps have risen very materially in fictitious value of late. A collection of 1,000 postage stamps, he says, can now be procured for less than 400 revenue stamps. Revenue stamps are in many cases superior in beauty of coloring and design to postage stamps. They were first issued in 1862. Their value (and this is also true of postage stamps) is enhanced 50 per cent. by their being in good condition. Besides the regular United States issues, Oregon, Nevada, Alabama, California and

Louisiana have issued revenue stamps for their own use. California heads the list, and according to Mr. Sterling of Trenton, has 289 varieties, ranging from 4 cents to \$100.

There have been sixty-eight new envelopes issued by the United States Government since last October, in denominations of 1, 2, 4 and 5 cents. The stamped envelopes of this country are lacking in beauty and design compared with those of other countries, but we are going to improve them. The new ones, which were due on Jan. 1, but which have not yet made their appearance, are said to have been designed by Louis C. Tiffany, and they promise to be greatly superior to those in present use.

From the nature of the mania for the collection of these little bits of paper, it is hard to estimate how many are engaged in it in this city, but Mr. Le Gary, an amateur collector who lives in Leonard street, and whom this passion has completely absorbed, said yesterday that, speaking from an experience of twenty years, he thought there were at least 20,000 people in this city engaged in chasing the philatelic butterfly. There were some twenty dealers employing from two to twenty people, and almost innumerable collectors who went around buying up old paper and sorting it over for rare stamps. Stamps issued by telegraph companies, he said, had a commercial value, and old stamps on medicine bottles brought good prices. Some of the latter were affixed to bottles worth only 25 cents, while the stamps were valued by philatelists at \$2.

In 1792 there were 264 post offices in the United States. To-day there are 50,000, with an annual revenue of \$85,000,000.

A philatelic journal in Philadelphia recently published the following:

The historic office cat of *The Sun* is eclipsed by the office crocodile of PLAIN TALK. The crocodile has a postage stamp on every scale, and 150 or so on his head, and no one attempts to steal them.

A story comes from Chicago to the effect that a young lady in Chicago has papered the walls of her bedroom with the envelopes she has received for the last few years. As these are of various sizes and colors, and have a variety of handwriting, and postage stamps, the effect is very quaint.

**SUBSCRIBE FOR PLAIN TALK,**  
THE  
**Best Philatelic Paper Published in the U. S.**  
50 CENTS PER ANNUM.  
61½ PATCHEN AVENUE, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

## STAMP DEALERS' LIGHTHOUSE.

ALL dealers who would avoid the loss of approval sheets of stamps should look at our Lighthouse every month.

For your own interest, we say, *don't* send any stamps to the following parties, except for *cash* before mailing. We have information in our office warranting this advice, to which any stamp dealer is entitled for return postage.

Abrams, A. . . . . 38 Oneida St., Boston.  
 Avera, Preston, . . . . . Camden, Ark.  
 Baguin, F. . . . . 3227 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Bellows, F. D. . . . . Saco, Me.  
 Brown, Abby R. . . . . Tarrytown, N.Y.  
 Brown, F. W., care W. B. Fore, Lynchburg, Va.  
 Bullivant, Wm. . . . . Sioux Falls, Dak.  
 Carpenter, W. F. . . . . Foxbury, Mass.  
 Cook, Geo. C., Jr. . . . . Box 198 Pt. Jervis, N.Y.  
 Dean, Frank, . . . . . St. Louis, Mo.  
 Foote, Lewis, H. . . . . Box 111 Pictou, N.S.  
 Grant, Geo. L. . . . . Wakefield, Mass.  
 Haddaway, A. T. . . . . Easton, Md.  
 Hamilton, H. T. . . . . Lima, N.Y.  
 Hatfield, Gordon . . . . . Tusket, Can.  
 Hill, T. D. . . . . Box 333 Sioux City, Ia.  
 Hoffaman, Emil . . . . . 755 Elm St., Dallas, Tex.  
 Johnson, C. T. . . . . Box 922 Fargo, Dak.  
 Johnston, E. L. . . . . Old Orchard, Me.  
 Kendrick, Chas. L., 605 N. 18th St., Omaha, Neb.  
 Lamb, Richard, 130 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md.  
 Locker, E. T. . . . . Saco, Mo.  
 Low W. S., care Alcott Packing Co., Kansas C'y, Me.  
 Marshall, F. E. . . . . Post Office, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Perkins, Chas. . . . . Merrill, Wisc.  
 Phelon, Wm. A., Jr., 629 Fulton St., Chicago, Ill.  
 Platt, Edw'd H. . . . . Topeka, Kan.  
 Racine Stamp Co., . . . . . Racine, Wisc.  
 Richardson, E. . . . . 96 Reade St., N. Y. City.  
 Ross, J. C. . . . . Cambridgeport, Mass.  
 Schack, H. F. . . . . Middlebury, Vt.  
 Sherman, Chas. . . . . Box 31 Hampton, Va.  
 Stephens, R. H. . . . . Lynchburg, Va.  
 Stephens & Holt . . . . . Charleston, S.C.  
 Stellman, Henry S. . . . . Andover, Mass.  
 Stephens, J. S. . . . . Lynchburg, Va.  
 Stuart, Henry, . . . . . Highland Park, Ills.  
 Threim, Henry . . . . . Box 349 Berea, Ohio.  
 Wahman, Ernest, 403 6th St., San Francisco, Cal.  
 Wainwright, C. . . . . Lincoln College, Sorel, Can.  
 Weeks, John A. . . . . Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Wolf, Chas., Jr. . . . . Marcellus Falls, N.Y.  
 Wood, Harry . . . . . Coburg, Ont.

If any of the above parties would like to have their names taken out of this list, which will be published with additions for some time, they can find out how it may be done by writing to PLAIN TALK PUB. Co.

\* \* \*

DURBIN'S STANDARD CATALOGUE.—We are in receipt of a copy of the Sixteenth Edition of this valuable catalogue, and could not be otherwise than pleased with its appearance. The author and the work are both so well known that any extended remarks concerning it would seem to be unnecessary. It *is*, briefly, a descriptive catalogue of the Postage Stamp and Stamped Envelopes of all nations. and a complete and comprehensive one.

\* \* \*

THE WITCH CITY COLLECTOR.—A new paper, published by Fred. C. T. Davis, in Salem Mass., Vol. 1. No. 1., though dated January, 1887, did not get around until the latter part of February, but the delay was apologized for and promptness is promised in the future. It is 4 pages, a trifle smaller than the conventional Philatelic paper and is devoted to Philately, Numismatics and Natural History.

\* \* \*

STANTONS AMERICAN PHILATELIC DIRECTORY.—This work, of whose forthcoming we gave notice last month, comprises a very long list of stamp collectors and dealers in the U. S. and Canada. The names are alphabetically arranged, printed in large type, and to many who have need for such a complete list of Philatelists, it is easily worth the price asked, namely, twenty five cents

\* \* \*

THE REVIEW.—Another new Philatelic paper, edited by C. D. Reimers & F. H. Copp, 4 pages, of smaller dimensions than the general run of stamp papers, but promising by its character and appearance, a larger growth after a awhile.

\* \* \*

THE PENINSULAR PHILATELIST.—We have received notice that a new paper, to be devoted to Philately, having the above title, will be published on or about April 15th, by H. E. Cowdin Rockford, Cent. Co., Mich.

## CHRONICLE.

**Azores.**—The 50 reis, blue, of 1879, comes with small surcharge.

**Bolivia.**—The new 1c. and 2c. are the same type as the 1870 issue with 11 stars, and the 5c. and 10c. have 9 stars. The 1c. is lake, 2c. lilac, 5c. green, 10c. brown. These values, and the cards and envelopes are on the way to Bolivia.

**Bosnia.**—A Letter card is reported, 3kr. green on green, with inside white.

**British Bechuanaland.**—The 4d. and 1sh. have been surcharged in black.

**British Honduras.**—The color of 1sh. is gray.

**Dominican Republic.**—The 15c. envelope comes on white laid paper, 153x86 mm. and the 45c. on white wove paper 210 x 93 mm.

**Ecuador.**—A New series of stamps is expected.

**Fernando Po.**—The 5c. is surcharged the same as the 2c.

**Gibraltar.**—The new ½d, green and 2d. brown-purple, without surcharge, have appeared.

**Grenada.**—The 1d. is now inscribed at the top "Grenada.—Postage & Revenue" in two lines.

**Guadeloupe.**—*Le Timbre Poste* mentions a 40c. unpaid letter stamp on blue paper; it is post-marked Feb. 7, 1878.

**Hyderabad.**—A 2½ anna envelope has been issued, gray-green on white.

**Italy.**—*Der Philatelist* mentions a card without stamp, inscribed "Circolare Postale—Due Centesimi." Brown on white.

**Macao.**—It is reported the new set has been issued, with embossed head; colors and values, same as Cape Verde 1886.

**Mexico.**—The words "Mexico D. F." have been omitted from the official seal.

**New Republic.**—Two new values are reported, 3d. and 4d. They are printed in violet on both straw and bluish paper.

**North Borneo.**—The ½c. of the first type has been surcharged "and Revenue," and the 4c. and 8c. same type, have been surcharged in black in two lines "3 cents" and "5 cents" respectively.

**Russia.**—The stamps on the 7 kopec envelopes are to be slightly modified.

**Samoa.**—New stamps are reported: ½d. violet-brown, 1d. green, 2d. orange, 4d. blue. Three palm trees are in the center in a circle, with "Samoa Postage" above and the value below.

**South Australia.**—The letters "O. S., have been surcharged in the stamp of the reply paid card.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Der Philatelist* reports the 32c. with surcharge "Three Cents" in black in one line.

**Timor.**—The set with embossed head is reported, same values and colors as Cape Verde 1886, with addition of 80 reis, gray.

**Tolima.**—Of the current type, perforated, we hear of 1c. gray-brown, 2c. violet, and the 5c. is violet instead of brown.

**Victoria.**—The current bands, ½d. and 1d. come on white, yellow and blue paper.

**Wurtemberg.**—A 10pf. card has been issued, resembling that of the German Empire 1886.

\* \* \*

**SOMETHING RARE.**—Gilbert M. Bastable, Catlett, Va., again writes us that he has lately found two stamps of great rarity which have never been catalogued, consisting of a Confederate Local from Liberty Va. The stamp is a small square printed on common white paper with no design except 5cts. It is pasted on the upper right hand corner with the post mark of Liberty, Va., on center of envelope. Also a Lynchburg Local envelope stamp. This has the identical 5 of the adhesive local, from same place, upon center of an oval engine-turned ground, in the upper left corner of a dark lemon colored envelope. The shape of the 5 in the adhesive local from Lynchburg, is of a peculiar shape, and as this envelope local is of the same pattern, no doubt they were both gotten up by the same designer. So far only one other is known to be in existence. Mr. Bastable is handling large numbers of rarities in U. S. and Confederate stamps and should our advanced collectors communicate with him, they could obtain these rarities at moderate prices, as he furnishes stamps upon the original envelopes, which very few dealers can do.

\* \* \*

**AN APOLOGY.**—Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J. the extensive dealer in U. S. stamps, has issued an apology to his many patrons and the public generally for the delay in publishing the sixth edition of his Standard Descriptive Postage Stamp Album. He says it is two-thirds done, and now in the printer's hands being pushed forward with all possible speed. The Catalogue will contain far more than any edition ever sent out by him upon the subject of U. S. Postage and Local Stamps.

\* \* \*

**ONE** and two-cent U. S. postage stamps are accepted for subscriptions.

# Edward R. Hasbrouck,

DEALER IN

## UNITED STATES and FOREIGN STAMPS,

OF ALL KINDS, AT LOWEST PRICES.

287 GRAND ST., NEWBURGH, N.Y.

### The Standard Packet Series.

Packet No. 1 contains 10 var. *rare* used and unused Foreign Stamps, from Guianacast, Mozambique, Philippine, Persia, Peru, etc. Price, 23c.

Packet No. 2 contains 10 var., *splendid* stamps, such as Ecuador, Hayti, Deccan, Egypt (old), New Foundland, Iceland, etc. Price, 18c.

Packet No. 3 contains 15 var., *very* desirable stamps, from the following countries: Mexico 1884 and 1885, Argentine Republic, Barbados, Thurn and Taxis, U. S. 15c., Interior Dept., Spain, Isabella, Servia, Natal, Sandwich Islands, Turkey and St. Vincent. Price, 18c.

Packet No. 4 contains 15 var., excellent stamps, used and unused, from U. S. of Colombia, Venezuela, Sierra Leone, Eastern Roumelia, Egypt 1872, Straits Settlements, Orange States, Hong Kong and other fine ones. Price, 25c.

Packet No. 5 contains 25 var., fine stamps, from Canada, Monaco, Porto Rico, Ceylon, Chili, Cyprus, New Zealand, Portugal (fine), Queensland, Tasmania, Great Britain rd, red on blue, and other good ones. Price, 20c.

Packet No. 6 contains 30 var. of superior stamps, among the lot will be found stamps of Azores, Bulgaria, Heligoland, Sardinia, Spain 1870, Brazil, Cape of Good Hope, U. S. War and P. O. Roman States, Greece and other fine ones. Price, 23c.

A 2c. stamp must be enclosed with each order for packets, to pay postage.

### APPROVAL BOOKS

of choice rare stamps sent upon receipt of satisfactory reference and a 2c. stamp.

### 25 per cent. Commission Allowed.

Those buying for their own collection should state the fact, as we will then mark at net figures.

### Collections Bought for Cash.

## United States and Foreign Stamps,

All Warranted Genuine and in Good Condition.

### UNITED STATES.

1857-1c. blue.....	\$0 04
1857-3c. red.....	04
1856-5c. red-brown.....	15 00
1856-5c. brown.....	3 50
1857-5c. brown, die cut	
top and bottom.....	50
1857-10c. green.....	15
1857-12c. black.....	30
1860-24c. lilac.....	1 00
1872-10c. brown.....	15

### DEPARTMENT STAMPS.

Agriculture, 3c.....	10
Executive, 10c.....	1 00
Post Office, 10c.....	40
State, 90c.....	1 50
State, \$2.00.....	4 00
Treasury, 7c.....	25
War, 11 var., complete.....	60
Interior, complete.....	1 00

The above named Stamps are all unused.

Retail price list of U. S. and Foreign Stamps for Collectors. Wholesale list sent to dealers only.

### C. F. ROTHFUCHS,

359 1/2 Penn Ave., P. O. Box 221, WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.

### SPMATS.

We are not giving them away, only selling Genuine Stamps Cheap.

SEND FOR ASSORTMENT ON APPROVAL.

THE BROOKLYN STAMP CO.,  
Box 134, Brooklyn, N. Y.

South and Central America Stamps a Specialty.

Books on approval sent to collectors upon receipt of good references.

Send for a complete set of Gibraltar Stamps, for \$1.25 per set.

### GEORGE F. STEIN,

No. 1 Lawrence Place, Troy, New York.

3 Foreign coins and catalogue, 10c.  
ARTHUR C. SMITH, Scranton, Pa.

12 Varieties, Spanish, 6c. Approval Sheets at 25 per cent. commission. Name paper, L. E. CURTIS, Freeport, Me.

STAMPS 100, all diff., 8c.; 1000 well mixed, 14c. Lists free  
COOPER & DEMPSEY, Towson, Md.

APPROVAL Sheets of good stamps at 25 per cent. discount.  
S. M. SAVIDGE, Box 472, Pottstown, Pa.

331 Per cent commission. Good stamps on approval on receipt of reference or deposit.  
LAUGHTON & LEVINS, Box 757, Portsmouth, N. H.

STAMPS 7 varieties, Egypt, 8c.; 6 Orange State, 12c. List free.  
RAIGUEL BROS, 1328 Poplar street, Phila., Pa.

STAMPS 150 finest mixed, 6c.; 100 varieties, 8c.; 15 rare tin tags, 5c. Agents wanted.  
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STAMPS 12 Australian, 8c.; 7 Portugal, 4c.; 5 Nicaragua, 16c.  
ACME STAMP CO.,  
2 Sumner avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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Sent on approval; large coms. to agents. Send 2c. stamp and reference to E. L. SMITH, Cornish Center, N. H.

STAMPS. 100, all different and new. Price list for 1887 only 12c.  
C. A. DUNHAM, P. O. box 722, Fremont, Neb.

STAMPS. Agents wanted at 25 per cent. commission.  
QUEEN CITY STAMP CO.,  
169 York street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

U. S. Stamps. Price list of 200 varieties for stamp. Mention PLAIN TALK. C. HUTCHINSON, Newtonville, Mass., dealer in U. S. Stamps only.

FINE Approval Sheets. Send 2c. stamp for one and receive a Canada Registered Letter Stamp free.  
T. C. BACON, Box 73, Middletown, Conn.

STAMPS 100 all different, containing stamps from Alsace & Lorraine, U. S. War, Dutch Indies, Hamburg, Heligoland, Constantinople, Eastern Roumelia, and un'd U. S. Dep., etc., only 25c. J. C. BECKER, Box 426, Bloomington, Ills.

STAMPS. 125 varieties, foreign, 25c; 6 varieties Roumania, 5c; 50 varieties North American, including old U. S., Canada Bill, etc., only 25c. Send for an Approval Sheet, at 25 per cent. commission. N. E. CARTER, Delevan, Wis.

APPROVAL SHEETS. Agents wanted. Reference required; large price list free. 10 var. U. S. Depts., 10c; 10 Mexico, 10c; 10 S. Am., 10c; 4 Barbadoes, 5c. E. R. DURBOROW, P. O. box 111, Phila., Pa.

STAMPS 1000 mixed foreign, 25c.; 500, 15c. post paid. A few agents wanted to sell from approval sheets. Stamp and written reference required.  
M. E. FINNEY & CO.,  
240 West State Street, Harrisburg, Pa.

APPROVAL SHEETS Send reference or deposit for one of my fine sheets of U. S. postage or revenue or foreign postage stamps. A few prices: 25c. Postal Telegraph Company, \$100; \$10 State Department, \$8; \$20 State Department, \$12; \$1.02 Periodical, \$2.75; \$3 Periodical, \$4; \$20 second issue revenue, \$7; \$25 second issue revenue, \$3.50; \$20 third issue revenue, \$5.50.

JOSEPH HOLMES, Jr.,  
No. 744 Broadway, New York City.

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick!  
Fish up a dollar; (an offer slick.)  
Five hundred stamps—a parcel plump;  
We're selling out, you'll have to jump.  
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ADDRESS of Collectors of Indian Relics, Confederate Money, State bank bills, Coins, Minerals, Fossils, Shells, Masonic and Political Ribbons and all manner of Old Arms and Curiosities, etc.

FOR SALE—Indian Relics, post-paid. Flint Points, good, per doz. 60c. Fair, 30c., poor, 15c. Quartz Points, 60c. Flint Scrapers, 60c. Fine, Ungrooved Stone Axe, each, 30c. Trilobites, each, 30c. Lists for stamps. MERCER, 147 Central Ave., Cincinnati, O.

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Foreign and U. S. Stamps on Approval.

Send stamp and good reference, and receive a sheet of fine stamps at low prices and good commission.

Price list of choice sets sent upon application, after Feb. 15th.

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P. O. BOX 35. FALLSINGTON, PA.

LADY Agents! actually clear \$10 to \$20 daily with my wonderful Brand New Patent Rubber Undergarment for females. Indispensable to women and sells at sight in every house. Our Knoxville agent made \$63 in four days. A young Miss cleared \$19.50 one afternoon in a school. An old lady made \$37 the first day, another sold 47 in two hours. Success unparalleled in the history of the world.

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Approval Sheets (to responsible parties only)  
Blank Approval Sheets (on bond paper, 1c. each),  
Gummed Paper (5c. per sheet),  
Millimeter Scales (boxwood, 15c. each),  
Color Charts (N. Y. Society Standard, 75c. each).

Wholesale and Retail.

Send for Price-List.

WM. VD. WETTERN, JR.

## Wholesale Dealer in Postage Stamps,

176 Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.

September List just issued. All dealers should have a copy.

Sent free on application, to dealers only.

Agents wanted.—Liberal commission. Send references and receive some beautiful and cheap sheets of postage stamps on approval. We desire to purchase cheap for cash any respectable sized collections. International Albums (Scott's), \$1.35 post free. Latest editions.

Continental, splendid mixture, only 33c. per 1,000—38c. post free. Gummed Paper is the very best thing for putting in stamps, 10c. per sheet, 3 for 25c. This paper is specially prepared and not the common kind usually sold.

UNDINE STAMP COMPANY,  
P. O. BOX 37, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

## LOOK! LOOK!!

AGENTS WANTED To sell from my Approval Sheets choice stamps of Corea, Macau, Siam, etc., at 33 1/2 per cent commission. To agents who sell \$20 worth, a Scott's stamp album worth \$1.50. Best of reference wanted. 100 mixed stamps, 10c. 100 varieties, a fine lot, 25c.

U. S. stamps of 1851, 1857, 1869, and Departments wanted for cash or exchange.

## F. W. HORROCKS,

(Successor to Horrocks & Marston.)

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Our Complete Priced Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of all Countries 25 cts. Sample copies of 2 monthly stamp journals and our price lists free. We have as large a variety of stamps as any dealer in America. All stamps are warranted genuine. Agents wanted in schools to sell stamps on commission.

Old United States and Department stamps wanted. Collections bought. 4 Costa Rica Stamps 10c., 4 Nicaragua, 10c., 4 Guatemala 8c., 6 Mexico, 1874, 25c., 10 Mexico, 1884, 20c., 5 Mexico, 1885, 10c., 10 Chili, 20c., 6 Ecuador, 10c., 15 Cuba, 20c., 40 West Indies, \$1.50 South America, \$1., 30 U. S., 15c. Carson Stamp Company, Room 71, Turner Building, St. Louis, Mo.

E. B. STERLING,

## United States Stamps of all Kinds,

Box 294, Trenton, New Jersey.

Standard Adhesive Postage and Stamped Envelopes Catalogue, 5th Edition, 1886, 25c.

Standard Descriptive Revenue Catalogue, 4th Edition, 25c.

## CHRONICLE.

**Azores.**—The 50 reis, blue, of 1879, comes with small surcharge.

**Bolivia.**—The new 1c. and 2c. are the same type as the 1870 issue with 11 stars, and the 5c. and 10c. have 9 stars. The 1c. is lake, 2c. lilac, 5c. green, 10c. brown. These values, and the cards and envelopes are on the way to Bolivia.

**Bosnia.**—A Letter card is reported, 3kr. green on green, with inside white.

**British Bechuanaland.**—The 4d. and 1sh. have been surcharged in black.

**British Honduras.**—The color of 1sh. is gray.

**Dominican Republic.**—The 15c. envelope comes on white laid paper, 153x86 mm. and the 45c. on white wove paper 210 x 93 mm.

**Ecuador.**—A New series of stamps is expected.

**Fernando Po.**—The 5c. is surcharged the same as the 2c.

**Gibraltar.**—The new ½d, green and 2d. brown-purple, without surcharge, have appeared.

**Grenada.**—The 1d. is now inscribed at the top "Grenada.—Postage & Revenue" in two lines.

**Guadeloupe.**—*Le Timbre Poste* mentions a 40c. unpaid letter stamp on blue paper; it is post-marked Feb. 7, 1878.

**Hyderabad.**—A 2½ anna envelope has been issued, gray-green on white.

**Italy.**—*Der Philatelist* mentions a card without stamp, inscribed "Circolare Postale—Due Centesimi." Brown on white.

**Macao.**—It is reported the new set has been issued, with embossed head; colors and values, same as Cape Verde 1886.

**Mexico.**—The words "Mexico D. F." have been omitted from the official seal.

**New Republic.**—Two new values are reported, 3d. and 4d. They are printed in violet on both straw and bluish paper.

**North Borneo.**—The ½c. of the first type has been surcharged "and Revenue," and the 4c. and 8c. same type, have been surcharged in black in two lines "3 cents" and "5 cents" respectively.

**Russia.**—The stamps on the 7 kopek envelopes are to be slightly modified.

**Samoa.**—New stamps are reported: ½d. violet-brown, 1d. green, 2d. orange, 4d. blue. Three palm trees are in the center in a circle, with "Samoa Postage" above and the value below.

**South Australia.**—The letters "O. S., have been surcharged in the stamp of the reply paid card.

**Straits Settlements.**—*Der Philatelist* reports the 32c. with surcharge "Three Cents" in black in one line.

**Timor.**—The set with embossed head is reported, same values and colors as Cape Verde 1886, with addition of 80 reis, gray.

**Tolima.**—Of the current type, perforated, we hear of 1c. gray-brown, 2c. violet, and the 5c. is violet instead of brown.

**Victoria.**—The current bands, ½d. and 1d. come on white, yellow and blue paper.

**Wurtemberg.**—A 10pf. card has been issued, resembling that of the German Empire 1886.

\* \* \*

**SOMETHING RARE.**—Gilbert M. Bastable, Catlett, Va., again writes us that he has lately found two stamps of great rarity which have never been catalogued, consisting of a Confederate Local from Liberty Va. The stamp is a small square printed on common white paper with no design except 5cts. It is pasted on the upper right hand corner with the post mark of Liberty, Va., on center of envelope. Also a Lynchburg Local envelope stamp. This has the identical 5 of the adhesive local, from same place, upon center of an oval engine-turned ground, in the upper left corner of a dark lemon colored envelope. The shape of the 5 in the adhesive local from Lynchburg, is of a peculiar shape, and as this envelope local is of the same pattern, no doubt they were both gotten up by the same designer. So far only one other is known to be in existence. Mr. Bastable is handling large numbers of rareties in U. S. and Confederate stamps and should our advanced collectors communicate with him, they could obtain these rareties at moderate prices, as he furnishes stamps upon the original envelopes, which very few dealers can do.

\* \* \*

**AN APOLOGY.**—Mr. E. B. Sterling, of Trenton, N. J. the extensive dealer in U. S. stamps, has issued an apology to his many patrons and the public generally for the delay in publishing the sixth edition of his Standard Descriptive Postage Stamp Album. He says it is two-thirds done, and now in the printer's hands being pushed forward with all possible speed. The Catalogue will contain far more than any edition ever sent out by him upon the subject of U. S. Postage and Local Stamps.

\* \* \*

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Packet No. 3 contains 15 var., *very* desirable stamps, from the following countries: Mexico 1884 and 1885, Argentine Republic, Barbados, Thurn and Taxis, U. S. 15c., Interior Dept., Spain, Isabella, Servia, Natal, Sandwich Islands, Turkey and St. Vincent. Price, 18c.

Packet No. 4 contains 15 var., excellent stamps, used and unused, from U. S. of Colombia, Venezuela, Sierra Leone, Eastern Roumelia, Egypt 1872, Straits Settlements, Orange States, Hong Kong and other fine ones. Price, 25c.

Packet No. 5 contains 25 var., fine stamps, from Canada: Monaco, Porto Rico, Ceylon, Chili, Cyprus, New Zealand: Portugal (fine), Queensland, Tasmania, Great Britain 1d, red on blue, and other good ones. Price, 20c.

Packet No. 6 contains 30 var. of superior stamps, among the lot will be found stamps of Azores, Bulgaria, Heligoland, Sardinia, Spain 1870, Brazil, Cape of Good Hope, U. S. War and P. O. Roman States, Greece and other fine ones. Price, 23c.

A 2c. stamp must be enclosed with each order for packets, to pay postage.

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of choice rare stamps sent upon receipt of satisfactory reference and a 2c. stamp.

**25 per cent. Commission Allowed.**

Those buying for their own collection should state the fact, as we will then mark at net figures.

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1857-10c. blue.....	\$0 04
1857-30c. red.....	04
1856-50c. red-brown.....	15 00
1856-50c. brown.....	3 50
1857-50c. brown, die cut	
top and bottom.....	50
1857-100c. green.....	15
1857-12c. black.....	30
1860-24c. lilac.....	1 00
1872-100c. brown.....	15

### DEPARTMENT STAMPS.

Agriculture, 3c.....	10
Executive, 10c.....	1 00
Post Office, 10c.....	40
State, 90c.....	1 50
State, \$2.00.....	4 00
Treasury, 70c.....	25
War, 11 var., complete.....	50
Interior, complete.....	1 00

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Send for a complete set of Gibraltar Stamps, for \$1.25 per set.

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No. 1 Lawrence Place, Troy, New York.

3 Foreign coins and catalogue, 10c.  
ARTHUR C. SMITH, Scranton, Pa.

12 Varieties, Spanish, 6c. Approval Sheets at 25 per cent. commission. Name paper. L. E. CURTIS, Freeport, Me.

STAMPS 100, all diff., 8c.; 1000 well mixed, 14c. Lists free  
COOPER & DEMPSEY, Towson, Md.

APPROVAL Sheets of good stamps at 25 per cent. discount.  
S. M. SAVIDGE, Box 472, Pottstown, Pa.

381 Per cent commission. Good stamps on approval on receipt of reference or deposit.  
LAUGHTON & LEVIRS, Box 757, Portsmouth, N. H.

STAMPS 7 varieties, Egypt, 8c.; 6 Orange State, 12c. List free.  
RAIGUEL BROS., 1328 Poplar street, Phila., Pa.

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United States Stamps of all Kinds,

Box 294, Trenton, New Jersey.

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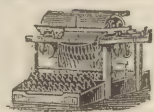
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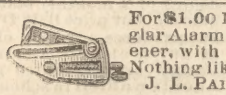
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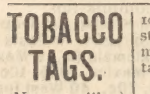
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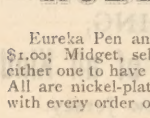


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